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**From:** Ross, Mary [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=98359CD1F66F46EC91D327E99A3C6909-ROSS, MARY]  
**Sent:** 4/11/2016 12:55:31 PM  
**To:** ORD-NCEA [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9fd27be854b0475e8c7da44e626886aa-ORD-NCEA]  
**Subject:** FW: ORD/OSA Weekly Report April 11

FYI -

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**From:** Blackburn, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 10, 2016 2:14 PM  
**To:** ORD-Exec-Council-Directors <Execcouncildirectors@usepa.onmicrosoft.com>; ORD-Mgmt-Council <ORDMgmtCouncil@epa.gov>; ORD-IOAA-Front Office Support <ORDIOAASUPPORT@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: ORD/OSA Weekly Report April 11

Hello all

It was good to see you last week. Please see Tom's weekly note to the Administrator below.

Liz

Liz Blackburn  
Chief of Staff  
EPA Office of Research and Development  
202-564-2192  
Cell Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Burke, Thomas" <Burke.Thomas@epa.gov>  
**Date:** April 10, 2016 at 11:40:03 AM EDT  
**To:** "Adm13McCarthy, Gina" <Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov>, "Meiburg, Stan" <Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov>, "Fritz, Matthew" <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>, "Purchia, Liz" <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>, "Distefano, Nichole" <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>, "Vaught, Laura" <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>, "Beauvais, Joel" <Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov>, "Garbow, Avi" <Garbow.Avi@epa.gov>, "Pieh, Luseni" <Pieh.Luseni@epa.gov>, "Rupp, Mark" <Rupp.Mark@epa.gov>, "Flynn, Mike" <Flynn.Mike@epa.gov>, "McCabe, Janet" <McCabe.Janet@epa.gov>, "Ragland, Micah" <Ragland.Micah@epa.gov>, "Garvin, Shawn" <garvin.shawn@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** "Kavlock, Robert" <Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov>, "Blackburn, Elizabeth" <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>, "Kadeli, Lek" <Kadeli.Lek@epa.gov>, "Deener, Kathleen" <Deener.Kathleen@epa.gov>, "Corona, Elizabeth" <Corona.Elizabeth@epa.gov>, "Hubbard, Carolyn"

<Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>, "Robbins, Chris" <Robbins.Chris@epa.gov>, "Kim, Hyon" <Kim.Hyon@epa.gov>

**Subject: ORD/OSA Weekly Report April 11**

Administrator,

I'm looking forward to attending the ECOS meeting this week in Nashville. On Monday I will participate in a panel focusing on the nexus between environment and public health moderated by ECOS President Martha Rudolph. The discussion will focus on enhancing partnerships between environmental regulators and public health professionals. Other panel members include ASTHO President Dr. Edward Ehlinger, and former ECOS President Richard Opper. The session will be followed by the signing ceremony with Stan of the Memorandum of Agreement on Public and Environmental Initiatives by EPA, ECOS and ASTHO. I will also attend the Environmental Research Institute of State's Board meeting on Tuesday to discuss the next steps of our successful partnership, and will join you and Stan on Wednesday for the State-U.S. EPA Roundtable.

#### Flint

The April 4 data meeting in Chicago went well. Participants discussed general observations about the data. Samples indicate sporadic lead release, which the scientists speculate may be due to low water use. Region 5 is developing a summary of the meeting.

As plans are developed, I am prepared to participate in the multiagency briefing in Michigan later this week. I am also working with CDC to

convene a panel of experts to review sample results and methods.

### **Tire Crumb**

On April 7, EPA, CDC, and CPSC participated in a call with the European Chemicals Agency to discuss the federal research strategy for tire crumb. On April 7, ORD and OLEM met with representatives of the Rubber Manufacturers Association to learn more about tire constituents and tire processing. Webinars on the draft study plan are scheduled for April 12 and 14. The webinar on April 12 is for government participants only (federal, state and local agencies). The webinar on April 14 is for the general public.

### **Next Week**

#### **IRIS Briefing for House Oversight Committee**

ORD will brief the House Oversight Committee staff on the IRIS Program on April 11. We will provide an IRIS 101 and overview and share how we are doing with the implementation of the 2011 and 2014 NAS recommendations. This will be a bipartisan briefing.

#### **Microbiomes of the Built Environment**

ORD will participate in the NAS's first public meeting on April 11 of *Microbiomes of the Built Environment: From Research to Application*, a new consensus study that will examine the formation and function of microbial communities in built environments (in the air, water, and HVAC systems, and on surfaces.) The study will look at the impacts of such microbial communities on human health, and how human occupants shape complex indoor

microbiomes. This meeting is co-sponsored by EPA, NASA and NIH.

### **Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Newest Village Green Station, Chicago, IL**

There will be a ribbon-cutting event on April 13<sup>th</sup> for the Chicago Village Green Station. This is the first station located at a public school (Jane Addams Elementary in southern Chicago), and is part of Region 5's Making a Visible Difference in Communities efforts. This station is also piloting a new technology called the AirMapper, which will provide hands-on data collection opportunities for students and teachers. The AirMapper is a device with a small GPS, particle sensor, and noise, temperature and humidity sensors. Students and teachers will be able to view data on an integrated screen and explore EPA's Real-Time Geospatial data viewer tool.

### **Meeting with French Parliament Science Office Delegation**

On April 14, ORD will meet with two members of the French Parliamentary Office for Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Options who have been charged with writing a report on "Epigenetics: Scientific, Ethical, Legal and Societal Issues." The French delegation is seeking EPA's input on several questions related to epigenetics as a scientific discipline and its possible impact on risk assessment.

### **People, Prosperity and the Planet**

Next week ORD is sponsoring the 12th Annual National Sustainable Design Expo featuring EPA's People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) Program. More than 35 P3 university and college teams are

gathering on April 16-17 at the USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, D.C., to showcase their innovative designs and solutions to real-world environmental and public health challenges. This year's teams are testing ideas such as repurposing chemical byproducts from the mining industry into new concrete that helps inhibit the corrosion of steel, and developing a food waste collection kiosk that will spur food waste to energy production in the local community.

### Last Week

#### **ORD Senior Leadership Meetings**

Last week ORD held a series of productive face to face meetings with our senior leadership here at headquarters. Agenda items included maximizing partnerships with Regions and Programs as well as external partners, transition planning, and ensuring diversity in our hiring plans.

#### **iCSS Chemistry Dashboard**

On April 4, ORD released the new interactive Chemical Safety for Sustainability Chemistry Dashboard. The iCSS Chemistry Dashboard provides access to chemistry data for ~700,000 chemicals. The data is compiled from a variety of sources including the EPA's computational toxicology research databases, other EPA sources, and public domain databases such as the National Center for Biotechnology Information's PubChem database. Dashboard users can access chemical structures, experimental and predicted physicochemical and toxicity data, and additional links to relevant websites and applications.

## **New Science To Achieve Results Grants Announced**

On April 6, ORD announced an \$8.5 Million STAR investment for the *Particulate Matter and Related Pollutants in a Changing World* grants. Projects are funded at 12 universities to improve our understanding of how climate change is impacting air quality and public health.

## **Visit from the Harvard Science Policy Group**

Bob Kavlock led an informal meeting last week with Harvard graduate science policy students who were in Washington, DC to learn more about how scientists and policymakers tackle science policy issues and to explore career paths for scientists in policy and government. The students also visited the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; the Senate Budget Committee; the NIH; the DOD; and the National Academy of Sciences.

## **FDA Proposed Limit for Inorganic Arsenic in Infant Rice Cereal**

Last week the FDA proposed a limit for inorganic arsenic in infant rice cereal, citing the work of the NIEHS/EPA Children's Center at Dartmouth College, which ORD has funded since 2010. Rice is a leading source of exposure to the toxin, and infants are particularly vulnerable to its adverse effects. The suggested limit is 100 parts per billion in rice cereals.

## **Publications**

ORD's Chris Clark and collaborators have published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* a summary of a research effort to better describe the impact of nitrogen (N) deposition on species diversity. The study examines the effects of N on specific biomes (e.g., forest, woodland, shrub land, and grassland) across the continental United States. Previous research has shown the impact of atmospheric deposition of nitrogen decreases plant species richness regionally. Researchers examined more than 15,000 sites and found that 24% of those sites were susceptible to N deposition-induced species loss. The results of this manuscript are pertinent to the protection of biodiversity and human welfare and may be useful to help inform future air quality standards. Simkin, SM; Allen, EB; Bowman, WD; Clark, CM; Belnap, J; Brooks, ML; Cade, BS; Collins, SL; Geiser, LH; Gilliam, FS; Jovan, SE; Pardo, LH; Schulz, BK; Stevens, CJ; Suding, KN; Throop, HL; Waller, DM (2016). Conditional vulnerability of plant diversity to atmospheric nitrogen deposition across the United States. doi: 10.5061/dryad.7kn53.

### **Community Resilience Research**

This week, ORD published three research reports that support EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment while communities prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from disasters. The reports, [EPA Pursues Interest in Developing Community Environmental Resilience Indicators and Indices](#), [Environmental Resilience: Exploring Scientific Concepts for Strengthening Community Resilience to Disasters](#) and [An Inventory of EPA's Tools for Enhancing Community Resilience to Disasters](#) are a

result of two workshops that ORD  
sponsored in 2014.